

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 14, 15, and 29 – 42 have been examined. An objection was raised to Claim 1; Claims 1, 7, 8, 29, 30¹, 31, 34, 38, and 40 – 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,147,790 (“Meier”); Claims 1, 31, 34, and 38 – 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,025,951; and Claims 4, 14, 15, 32, 33, and 35 – 37 have been identified as allowable except for their dependence on a rejected base claim.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 4. Since Claim 4 was identified as allowable, Claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 31 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 36. Since Claim 36 was identified as allowable, Claim 31 and the claims that depend therefrom are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 40 has been amended so that the structure recited in the “providing” step includes all limitations of amended Claim 31, and is therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Additional amendments have been made to overcome the objection to Claim 1 and for consistency with the amendments to the independent claims.

¹ There appears to be a typographical error in the Office action.

Appl. No. 10/619,940
Amdt. dated November 11, 2005
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2872


PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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